This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for assessing a subject's risk for an aortic aneurysm comprising detecting one or more protein markers for macular degeneration in a blood, ~~plasma, serum or urine~~ sample from the subject, wherein the one or more protein markers are selected from the group consisting of amyloid A, amyloid P component, complement C5b-9 terminal complex, HLA-DR, complement C3, complement C5, complement C9, immunoglobulin mu chain, immunoglobulin lambda chain, immunoglobulin kappa chain, Factor X, HLA-DR, apolipoprotein E, antichymotrypsin, β2 microglobulin, fibrinogen, prothrombin, thrombospondin, vitronectin, ICAM-1, LFA1, LFA3, B7, IL-1, IL-12, TNF-alpha, heat shock proteins, colony stimulating factors (GM-CSF, M-CSFs), IL-10, CD68, clusterin, S-100, heat shock protein 70, death protein, proteasome, Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase, a cathepsin protein, death adaptor protein RAIDD, factor X, CD1a, CD4, CD14, CD83, CD86, CD45, PECAM, MMP14, ubiquitin, FGF75, β1 integrin, HME, BigH3, MFAP-1, MFAP-2, LTBP-4, PI-1, PI-2, thrombospondin, C reactive protein, transthyretin, SCF, FLT-3, and an autoantibody directed to a drusen-associated antigen, a retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) -associated antigen, or a retina - associated antigen or immune complex containing the autoantibody;

a difference in the level of the one or more protein markers relative to the level of the same marker(s) in a control population is an indication that the subject is at risk for an aortic aneurysm at a location other than an artery in the eye; and

the control population comprises at least one individual that does not have the aortic aneurysm and/or macular degeneration.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the aortic aneurysm is selected from the group consisting of a peripheral aneurysm, a visceral aneurysm, and an intracranial aneurysm.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said aortic aneurysm is a dissecting aneurysm.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the aortic aneurysm is an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA).

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the aortic aneurysm is a thoracic aortic aneurysm (TAA).

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the macular degeneration is age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

7-9. (canceled)

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more markers is a drusen-associated marker selected from the group consisting of immunoglobulin mu chain, immunoglobulin kappa chain, immunoglobulin lambda chain, amyloid A, amyloid P component, complement C5b-9 terminal complexes, HLA-DR, complement C3, complement C5, complement C9, C-reactive protein, Factor X, HLA-DR, apolipoprotein E, antichymotrypsin, ÿ microglobulin, fibrinogen, prothrombin, thrombospondin, vitronectin, ICAM-1, LFA1, LFA3, B7, IL-1, IL-12, TNF-alpha, heat shock proteins, colony stimulating factors (GM-CSF, M-CSFs), and IL-10.

11-20. (canceled)

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers is a protein marker selected from the group consisting of HLA-DR, CD68, vitronectin, apolipoprotein E, clusterin, S-100, heat shock protein 70, death protein, proteasome, Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase, cathepsins, and death adaptor protein RAIDD.

22-67. (canceled)

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers are selected from the group consisting of amyloid A, amyloid P component, complement C5b-9 terminal complex, HLA-DR, complement C3, complement C5, complement C9, Factor X, HLA-DR, apolipoprotein E, antichymotrypsin, β2 microglobulin, fibrinogen, prothrombin, thrombospondin, vitronectin, ICAM-1, LFA1, LFA3, B7, heat shock proteins, colony stimulating factors (GM-CSF, M-CSFs), CD68, clusterin, S-100, heat shock protein 70, death protein, proteasome, Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase, death adaptor protein RAIDD, factor X, CD1a, CD4, CD14, CD83, CD86, CD45, PECAM, MMP14, ubiquitin, FGF75, HME, BigH3, MFAP-1, MFAP-2, LTBP-4, PI-1, PI-2, thrombospondin, C reactive protein, transthyretin, SCF, and FLT-3 .

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises detecting the one or more protein markers by immunohistochemical staining, Western blot analysis and ELISA.

70. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more proteins are drusen-associated molecules and are selected from the group consisting of amyloid A protein, amyloid P component, antichymotrypsin, apolipoprotein E, β2 microglobulin, complement 3, complement C5, complement C5b-9 terminal complexes, factor X, fibrinogen, immunoglobulin kappa chain, immunoglobulin lambda chain, prothrombin, thrombospondin and vitronectin.

71. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers are associated with dysfunctional retinal pigment epithelium cells and are selected from the group consisting of HLA-DR, CD68, vitronectin, apolipoprotein E, clusterin and S-100.

72. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers are associated with cell death and are selected from the group consisting of death protein, heat shock protein 70, proteasome, Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase, cathepsins, and death adaptor protein.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers are associated with dendritic cells and are selected from the group consisting of CD1a, CD4, CD14, CD68, CD83, CD86 and CD45.

74. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers are associated with drusen-associated dendritic cell cores and are selected from the group consisting of PECAM, MMP14, ubiquitin and FGF.

75. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers are cytokines and are selected from the group consisting of IL-1, IL-12, TNF-alpha and colony stimulating factor GM-CSF.

76. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises detecting an increase in ÿ integrin and/or HME levels relative to the control population.

77. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein detecting comprises detecting a decrease in BigH3, MFAP-1, MFAP-2, LTBP-4, PI-1 and/or PI-2 levels relative to those in the control population.

78. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers is and auto-antibody specific for a protein in drusen, an RPE antigen, or a retinal antigen.

79. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more protein markers is a protein involved in dendritic cell maturation and proliferation and is selected from the group consisting of CM-CSF, IL-4, IL-3, SCF, FLT-3 and TNF-α.